United Nations A/HRC/30/8

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 July 2015

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 6
Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Maldives

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

GE.15-11771(E)

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-second session from 4 to 15 May 2015. The review of Maldives was held at the 6th meeting, on 6 May 2015. The delegation of Maldives was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dunya Maumoon. At its 10th meeting, held on 8 May 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Maldives.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Maldives: Argentina, France and India.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Maldives:

(a) A national report (A/HRC/WG.6/22/MDV/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (A/HRC/WG.6/22/MDV/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR (A/HRC/WG.6/22/MDV/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Maldives through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the Working Group.

II. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation noted that a sense of pride and responsibility defined the Maldivian people, who were guided by that sentiment to craft their own story of progress, a story of resilience that the Maldivians proudly referred to as "the Maldivian story". A significant part of the Maldivian story consisted of the country's constructive partnerships with international agencies and Governments that were serious in supporting positive change in the country.

6. Maldives believed in the universality and equality of States under the universal periodic review. In preparing for its review, Maldives followed a policy of inclusivity through the standing committee on the review, which was led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the support of the Attorney General's Office.

7. Democratization began in 1932, with the first written Constitution and the introduction of universal adult suffrage. The Constitution was significantly revised with the reform agenda of 2004. A new Constitution was adopted in 2008, bringing about a significant paradigm shift in society.

8. Fundamental rights, including freedom of expression, freedom of the media, freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and freedom from forced labour, were guaranteed in the Constitution of 2008. They could not be infringed, not even in a state of emergency.

9. Maldives had one of the most liberal interpretations of freedom of expression: it placed no restrictions on freedom of the media, including online newspapers, ensuring the

safety of journalists. The Media Council and the Broadcasting Commission were tasked with protecting freedom of expression. The challenge to the Government was to balance that broad freedom with the guarantee of individual liberty.

10. In parallel to domestic reform, Maldives pursued an activist policy of promoting its international human rights obligations. Since 2005, it has joined seven of the nine core human rights conventions and five optional protocols, ratified the Rome Statute, eight fundamental International Labour Organization conventions, issued a standing invitation to all United Nations special procedures mandate holders and hosted six visits of rapporteurs.

11. Maldives had been a Muslim country for 800 years. Its social framework and historic and traditional values, which had evolved over the decades, were intimately linked to Islamic practices. Islamic values were part of the national identity and heritage, and formed the basis of the Constitution and all Maldivian laws. Calls to introduce values and practices that were contrary to the values of Islam, such as non-traditional forms of families and those related to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, would not be entertained by the people of Maldives. The basic belief in Islam as an integral part of the Maldivian identity would not change, although the country continued to allow non-Maldivians to practice their own faith in private.

12. The human rights policy of the President, Abdulla Yameen, was guided by the belief that, although providing a basic framework, human rights were not just about international instruments or pieces of law. Human rights was a matter of belief that needed to be carefully cultivated and nurtured, and needed space and time to grow organically and become valued and cherished traditions in the societies concerned.

13. The new school curriculum, which offered civic education in order to cultivate values and belief in human rights, was an integral part of the successful story of the education sector. Maldives offered free education up to the higher secondary level, free textbooks and stationery, and free local and international exams.

14. Maldives had introduced universal health insurance for people of all socioeconomic backgrounds. Its maternal and infant mortality rates were on par with those of developed countries and well above the global average. Diseases that could be prevented through vaccinations, such as neonatal tetanus, whooping cough, polio and diphtheria, were non-existent; malaria had been successfully controlled for decades; the prevalence of HIV/AIDS continued to be low; and there was sustained investment in improving the quality of access to and delivery of health services.

15. Successive governments had adopted social housing schemes as the best way to provide affordable housing to all. Over the past few years, the Government had built over 2,600 housing units, meeting the housing needs of over 17,000 people.

16. The Government had prioritized skills development and job creation for the youth. Over the past 17 months, more than 7,000 jobs had been created and several skills development programmes have been launched.

17. The Government believed in addressing the growing problems of drug abuse and gang violence by empowering the youth. The enactment of the Drugs Act and the Anti-Gang Violence Act provided the legal framework for dealing with those issues. A separate court had been established under the Drugs Act, to hear drug related cases, and there was a conscious shift in policy towards rehabilitation and the reintegration of addicts into society through drug rehabilitation centres across the country. The Government had criminalized gang violence and organized crime and moved rapidly to correct the infringement of human rights through gang activities.

18. Maldives had always maintained a policy of moderation and openness, rejected all forms of extremism and introversion, as well as radical interpretations of Islam, and

denounced and condemned terrorist activities in the name of Islam. The Government announced that it had drafted an entirely new counter-terrorism and prevention bill that would make it a serious criminal offence for Maldivians to take part in any kind of armed activities overseas, except where the military or police officials operate under a formal arrangement.

19. The Government was currently implementing a strategy aimed at increasing awareness about the value of moderation, tolerance and the peaceful nature of Islam. It was also targeting other practices associated with radicalism, including the limited instances of underage marriage, forced marriage, non-vaccination of infants and lack of access to schools for children, especially girls.

20. The Domestic Violence Prevention Act, the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Abuse Act and the Sexual Offences Act had strengthened the legal framework to protect women, children and migrants from violence and sexual abuse. The gender equality bill, which was currently in its final stages, once passed, would cement the national standards on gender equality and confirm that the policies and the legal framework were consistent with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Disability Act had boosted the protection and rights afforded to persons with disabilities, giving them access to financial assistance, establishing regulations on minimum standards and the identification of persons with disabilities and making room for affirmative action, including in respect of access to gainful employment.

21. The Anti-Human Trafficking Act represented a milestone in combating trafficking, especially by affording protection to the large number of migrant workers in the country from exploitation. The National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons 2015–2019 had been finalized. The Government announced that on 27 April 2015 Parliament had approved accession to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

22. Maldivian women had had the constitutional right to vote since 1932. They also had equal pay, paid maternity leave and the same access to education and employment opportunities. The Government was concentrating on making women economically empowered by introducing targeted microloans, single mother benefits, home-based employment opportunities and day-care facilities. The Government aimed to empower women to become more productive citizens, in whatever capacity they chose for themselves, free from coercion or social pressure.

23. The progress that Maldives had made in the areas of governance and social and economic development could be fully realized and sustained over time by creating the necessary enabling institutions. Political tensions had arisen because the speed of institutional development had been slow and the institutional shape and structure envisioned in the Constitution was still not complete; the gap between socioeconomic growth and the emergence of strong political institutions had not yet been entirely filled.

24. The President's comprehensive strategy for democracy consolidation aimed at transforming Maldivian society into a political community that was able to forge an overwhelming consensus on the acceptability of the political system.

25. A significant component of the democracy consolidation strategy was the justice sector strategic action plan, which recognized the judiciary's continuous efforts to improve access to and the effectiveness and functioning of the system. The new Penal Code would play a pivotal role in achieving those targets. A legal profession bill was being drafted to implement the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers. Several key pieces of legislation, such as the Anti-Torture Act, the Prison and Parole Act, the Anti-Money-Laundering and Terrorism Financing Act and the Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters

and Transfer of Prisoners Act, had been passed and were expected to enhance the effectiveness of the delivery of services in the justice sector. Maldives was continuously working with international human rights mechanisms with the aim of training and building the capacity of judges so as to encourage the growth of the judiciary into an arm of the State that was strong, robust and enjoyed strong public support.

26. The progress achieved, within only 10 years, was by any measure remarkable. Among the many remaining challenges was the incredibly high economic cost of bringing the systemic changes envisioned in the 2008 Constitution and the speed of the change, which had not given adequate time for the country to develop a pool of human resources capable of transforming the changes into social norms. Those challenges had been further heightened by the fact that Maldivian democracy was "growing up" under the international spotlight.

27. While the Government appreciated the well-meaning and well-intended commentaries and the valuable advice, it called upon States to not only criticize but also to invest in bringing about meaningful change. Meaningful democratic change could not be imposed and could only be sustained if change was locally owned, locally driven and locally shaped. It was also important to let democratic institutions have the space and the independence to grow organically.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

28. During the interactive dialogue, 102 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

29. Mauritius welcomed achievements in education, health and housing, the new Ministry of Law and Gender and the law against domestic violence.

30. Mexico recognized the cooperation of Maldives with human rights mechanisms and hoped for the strengthening of the independence of the Human Rights Commission and actions addressing drug abuse.

31. Montenegro commended efforts to combat child, early and forced marriages and trafficking, and asked about measures to combat corporal punishment.

32. Morocco appreciated improved access to education, housing and health care and welcomed measures for the empowerment of women.

33. Namibia acknowledged challenges facing Maldives owing to the dispersal of the population over a vast geographic area and admired the advancement to developing country status.

34. Nepal noted remarkable progress in development, including in curbing infant and maternal mortality, and the challenges of religious extremism and high drug abuse.

35. Netherlands appreciated positive amendments to key legislation but was concerned that many recommendations from the first universal periodic review remained to be implemented.

36. New Zealand was concerned about recent trends in relation to freedom of expression, fair trials and the independence of the judiciary.

37. Nicaragua noted improvements made to universal access to rights to education, health, housing and justice, especially for vulnerable groups.

38. The Niger noted the important contribution made by Maldives to the Human Rights Council, the many ratifications and the initiatives for migrant workers.

39. Nigeria commended achievements in health, housing and education and the strengthened legislative framework on human rights.

40. Norway raised concerns, including on the lack of respect for a fair trial and due process, and urged the reversal of trends undermining democratic principles.

41. Oman commended efforts to promote and protect human rights, especially for minors, and the training of law enforcement officials.

42. Pakistan commended efforts to modernize national legislation and strengthen the legal framework to promote and protect human rights.

43. Paraguay noted advances, such as criminalizing martial rape, but remained concerned at acts of gender discrimination and discrimination based on religion.

44. Peru emphasized such advances as the Social Health Insurance Act introducing universal health care and ratification of the Rome Statute.

45. Philippines commended the rights-based approach to climate change and disaster risk reduction and the new law against sexual abuse, including marital rape.

46. Portugal welcomed the signing of the Rome Statute and shared the concerns of Maldives regarding displacement due to environmental causes.

47. Qatar appreciated legislation and policies on education, health, housing, persons with disabilities, the protection of women and children and the prevention of trafficking.

48. The Republic of Korea noted efforts to protect vulnerable groups with the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and the draft child rights bill.

49. The Republic of Moldova welcomed measures against child, early and forced marriage and asked about the study on child sexual exploitation.

50. The Russian Federation welcomed the reforms in the area of criminal justice, including the adoption of the Criminal Code.

51. Rwanda commended progress achieved in health and the provision of free education and affordable and safe housing.

52. Saudi Arabia commended the ratification of treaties, protocols and ILO conventions and efforts for polio eradication, free education and adequate housing and against domestic violence.

53. Senegal welcomed the ratification of the fundamental ILO conventions, visits of United Nations mandate holders and major progress in education, health, housing and women's rights.

54. Seychelles commended the great steps taken towards a human rights-based approach to protecting the environment and combating climate change.

55. Sierra Leone appreciated universal health care, free education and the Anti-Torture Act, urged greater protection for migrant workers and human rights defenders and called for climate change adaptation assistance.

56. Singapore welcomed the commitment to promote health services and to eliminate discrimination and violence against women.

57. Slovenia welcomed criminalization of domestic violence and marital rape, hoped for ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a

communications procedure and was concerned at limitations on freedoms, improper functioning of the judiciary and impunity.

58. Spain praised progress in the new Criminal Code but was concerned about the application of the death penalty to minors.

59. Sri Lanka noted progress since the Constitution was enacted in 2008 and stressed the importance of upholding the rule of law and observing due process at all times.

60. Maldives accepted 89 of some 126 recommendations from the first cycle of the universal periodic review and said that it was able to fully implement 58 of the accepted recommendations and had partially implemented 32 recommendations.

61. Maldives stated that its susceptibility to climate change and adverse impacts was a hindrance to the full enjoyment of human rights including the right to adequate housing and to development gains achieved over decades. On climate change the Government took a rights-based approach aiming at supporting livelihoods and communities struggling to adapt to climate change.

62. Maldives clarified that under the Human Rights Commission Act 2006 and subsequent amendments in 2014, Commission members and staff enjoyed immunity from prosecution or complaint for acts carried out in good faith within the purview of their functions. Pointing to issues relating to the *suo motu* application filed against the members of the Commission in 2014, Maldives deemed it inappropriate to comment just yet since the matter had yet to be decided.

63. Regarding challenges faced by local civil society organizations, the Government had already identified many shortcomings in the 2003 Societies Act and proposed revising the law, including by moving the political office of the Registrar of Societies to one of the independent statutory standing offices appointed by Parliament.

64. Maldives stated that migration was a key issue of concern and a continuous challenge for the Government. The Constitution did not discriminate against migrants in relation to their entitlement to just and safe conditions of work, fair wages and equal remuneration, regardless of the person's nationality, race or religion, nor did the 2008 Employment Act. However, a difference did exist where a migrant worker's employment was terminated, as the almost immediate revocation of the employment visa created a huge barrier to recourse before the employment tribunal.

65. The State of Palestine welcomed the implementation of recommendations from the first cycle, particularly on child rights, the right to education and the rights of persons with disabilities.

66. Sudan commended the constructive engagement with international human rights mechanisms, the standing invitation to special procedures and the hosting of visits.

67. Sweden noted reported steps to combat discrimination and violence against women and warnings of deterioration in the independence of the justice system.

68. Switzerland expressed concern about shortcomings in the judicial system and about the deteriorating situation with respect to freedom of expression and intimidation of the national human rights institution.

69. Thailand encouraged continued engagement with the national Human Rights Commission, civil society and the international community, and welcomed free education and universal health care.

70. Timor-Leste welcomed the enactment of legislation against domestic violence and the constitutional prohibition of racial discrimination.

71. Trinidad and Tobago congratulated Maldives on its fiftieth anniversary of independence, which offered an opportunity to reflect on the role of human rights in consolidating democracy, and acknowledged the new ministry, climate change and education policies.

72. Tunisia noted the progress achieved, highlighting the ratification of international human rights instruments, including the Rome Statute.

73. Turkey welcomed improvements in education, housing and health care, as well as steps taken to combat human trafficking, and encouraged strengthened efforts regarding women's rights.

74. Turkmenistan welcomed the measures to strengthen the national institutional infrastructure for promoting human rights.

75. Ukraine commended the adoption of anti-trafficking and domestic violence laws and encouraged Maldives to continue its active stance in the Human Rights Council, including in preventing human rights violations.

76. The United Arab Emirates commended progress in free education, respect of the principle of equality before the law and equal judicial protection in compliance with the obligations of Maldives.

77. The United Kingdom welcomed legislative progress, remained concerned about the death penalty, corporal punishment, due process and the arrest of opposition leaders, and urged restraint and dialogue by all parties and the Government.

78. The United States was concerned that recent developments called into question the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, about the use of politically motivated prosecutions against critics, that non-Muslims cannot become citizens and at the lack of laws to implement labour rights.

79. Uruguay highlighted measures to implement recommendations accepted during the first review, including ratification of the fundamental ILO conventions.

80. Uzbekistan welcomed the legislative and institutional improvements, accession to treaties and cooperation with OHCHR, treaty bodies and special procedures.

81. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated the challenges related to geography and climate change and commended free education and social housing. It appealed for a resumption of political dialogue involving all stakeholders to bring about peace, and efforts to achieve national reconciliation.

82. Viet Nam welcomed the remarkable progress made in the areas of education, housing, health care, access to justice, women's rights and the rights of the child.

83. Yemen noted measures taken to strengthen the criminal justice sector and to join a number of international treaties and protocols.

84. Afghanistan appreciated enhanced educational programmes and the "No child left behind" policy.

85. Albania noted progress in the adoption of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Abuse Act.

86. Algeria welcomed the adoption of the law against domestic violence and efforts to adopt a law on the elimination of racial discrimination.

87. Angola was pleased by the many ratifications and the acceptance of special procedure mandate holders' visits.

88. Argentina welcomed efforts in the area of gender, including the adoption of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act.

89. Australia expressed concern at the conduct of the trial of former President Mohamed Nasheed, the subsequent unrest and the death penalty regulations. Australia commended progress on domestic violence.

90. Azerbaijan appreciated Maldives' graduation from least developed country status and noted the recent OHCHR visit as demonstrating the importance attached to United Nations mechanisms.

91. Bahrain commended steps taken in the education field and in ensuring that local and international exams were free of charge.

92. Bangladesh welcomed measures to safeguard women and children's rights, acknowledged the impact of climate change, noted family breakdowns compelling youth to join gangs and hoped for success in strengthening democracy, the rule of law and an independent judiciary.

93. Barbados noted gains in protecting the rights of vulnerable groups and climate change challenges and encouraged Maldives to continue to fully implement accepted recommendations and human rights cooperation.

94. Replying to the advance questions and recommendations made regarding enforcement of the practice of flogging and of the death penalty, Maldives wished to ensure all partners that it remained committed to strengthening the legislative and judicial framework involved in cases of flogging, informed them that the Government remained dedicated to further strengthening those systems and processes and looked forward to any kind of support from partners. Similarly, with regard to the enforcement of the death penalty, Maldives stated that such punishment would not be resorted to unless it was endorsed by all court tiers and was in line with all regulations and procedures.

95. Belgium welcomed efforts to follow-up on the outcome of the first universal periodic review and hoped for increased space in the future for a free civil society and media.

96. Bhutan noted initiatives in education, gender equality and bringing climate change issues to the international forefront.

97. Botswana commended enactment of acts for the protection of women, noted challenges in addressing climate change and expressed concern at reports of trafficking, as well as at the inadequacy, judicial interference and politicization of the Judicial Service Commission.

98. Brazil congratulated enactment of acts to prevent domestic violence, sexual offences, harassment and abuse and the commitment to submitting a gender equality bill.

99. Brunei Darussalam commended progress in promoting women's empowerment and pledges to ensure housing.

100. Cabo Verde noted positive policies on free education, universal health care, social housing and climate change and the Government's determination to consolidate democracy.

101. Canada made recommendations.

102. Chad noted climate change challenges and encouraged the international community to assist in resolving them.

103. Chile valued progress, particularly in ratifying international human rights treaties, improving legislation and implementing programmes.

104. China welcomed measures on free education, housing and universal health coverage and for combating violence sexual exploitation and trafficking, and Maldives' willingness to strengthen the criminal justice system.

105. Costa Rica recognized progress in the implementation of recommendations and the midterm report submitted in 2013.

106. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed cooperation with international mechanisms and encouraged strengthened measures to combat religious discrimination and violence against vulnerable groups and to promote gender equality.

107. Croatia welcomed the emphasis on mainstreaming human rights values and encouraged continued work to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights for all without distinction.

108. Cuba recognized the progress made, including through the Anti-Torture Act, free education and universal health care, and challenges in consolidating the democratic process. It agreed on the need for the international community to cooperate with the Government to achieve the objectives it had set.

109. The Democratic Republic of the Congo identified the need for policies to combat racial and religious discrimination and eliminate female genital mutilation.

110. Denmark expressed concern about the irregularities of the court case against former President Nasheed, which put into question judicial independence.

111. Ecuador recognized the importance that Maldives attached to the contribution of parliaments to the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations and welcomed the Social Security Act.

112. Egypt commended the accomplishments, including in health, social housing, education and women's rights, and acknowledged that national ownership was needed for democratic consolidation.

113. Equatorial Guinea, in this golden jubilee year, welcomed the remarkable progress in expanding access to education, reducing inequality and empowering youth.

114. Ethiopia commended progress in education and housing and the commitments to address inequality and protect religious minorities to worship freely.

115. Fiji noted many similar challenges faced in the context of democratic transition, meeting constitutional obligations in line with human rights and climate change.

116. France commended the ratification of the Rome Statute but deplored that the judicial system did not allow for fair and just trials to be held.

117. Germany welcomed passage of the anti-torture and anti-human trafficking acts but was concerned at reported human rights violations, which contributed to a climate of growing fear and reduced space for public discussion.

118. Ghana welcomed such achievements as the draft bill on gender equality but was concerned at the case initiated by the Supreme Court against the Human Rights Commission and called for that decision to be rescinded.

119. Greece appreciated the recent ratifications, the adoption of the anti-torture and right to information acts and the draft gender equality law, which sought to increase compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

120. Honduras commended efforts to strengthen the institutional and democratic framework, including the establishment of the Human Rights Commission.

121. India referred to the importance of adhering to due process, safeguarding the space for legitimate political dissent, scrutinizing the exploitation of migrant workers and reinforcing efforts to address drug addiction, gang violence and organized crime.

122. Indonesia hoped that democracy consolidation integrated with respect for human rights would continue and take root and noted migration as a remaining challenge.

123. Iraq welcomed the adoption of legislation and its harmonization with international commitments, cooperation with special procedures, ratifications and policies on education.

124. Ireland expressed concern about deteriorating respect for the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.

125. Italy welcomed progress in education and health, development achievements and engagement in strengthening the judiciary.

126. Jordan appreciated the enactment of the education and disability acts, ratifications and the strengthening of the Human Rights Commission.

127. Kazakhstan appreciated measures to combat gender-based violence and to strengthen legislation, including for protecting disabled persons and trafficking victims.

128. Kenya welcomed enhanced social protection and services, the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 4–6 and ratifications, and noted concerning challenges in the administration of justice and the rule of law.

129. Kuwait commended adoption of policies to promote human rights and equality and the invitation to mandate holders to visit Maldives.

130. Latvia welcomed efforts to address human rights in collaboration with mandate holders, including challenges related to judicial independence, women's and children's rights and a safe and enabling environment for civil society and journalists.

131. Lebanon welcomed the adoption of the anti-human trafficking and anti-torture acts.

132. Libya commended the positive interaction with human rights mechanisms and the adoption of legislation against violence and human trafficking and in favour of access to information.

133. Liechtenstein acknowledged the commitment to international justice but remained concerned at reported barriers faced by women in accessing justice.

134. Madagascar observed significant progress in social protection, employment, access to health care and free education.

135. Malaysia acknowledged efforts to strengthen legislative measures to combat violence against women.

136. Mauritania appreciated improvements to the legal framework, ratifications and timely reporting.

137. Maldives reiterated that criticism of the trial and sentencing of former President Nasheed for the abduction or enforced disappearance of a sitting judge in 2012 has focused on the process and not on the merits of the case. The case had highlighted the profound need to bring urgent reforms to the judiciary as identified in the 2004 reform agenda. While the Criminal Code had been adopted, remaining legislation, such as the criminal procedure code, was still with Parliament. In the spirit of showing maximum transparency, the Government invited OHCHR, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the European Union to observe the appeal process. Maldives stated that immediately after the Government had sent out those invitations, the former President announced his decision not to appeal his case.

138. Regarding the issue of the recent demonstrations held in Malé and organized by the Adhaalath Party, a religious party, the delegation reiterated that the protests had become violent when the organizers confronted and physically assaulted the police. The Maldives Police Service did not use excessive or deadly force.

139. In recognition of many concerns raised, the Government would make every effort to further strengthen the judiciary. The Government was working closely with its partners, such as the Commonwealth Secretariat, in examining some of the specific aspects of the constitutional structure with a view to instituting a comprehensive review. Extensive work was also being done with such partners as the United Nations Development Programme in developing a curriculum for the judicial training institute to be established next year. To complement those reforms, the Attorney-General's office, through its strategic action plan of 2014, has already identified the need for more legislation, such as a legal profession act, to enable the establishment of an independent bar association.

140. Maldives thanked all delegations for their statements, comments and recommendations. Full note had been taken of them and they would be given maximum consideration.

II. Conclusions and recommendations**

141. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below have been examined by Maldives and enjoy its support:**

141.1 **Continue strengthening the legislative framework for the promotion and protection of human rights for all people in the country in accordance with international human rights obligations (Croatia);**

141.2 **Continue strengthening the legislative framework on human rights (Sudan);**

141.3 **Continue working on the harmonization of its domestic normative framework with its international obligations to which it is a State party, taking into account the recommendations made by treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders (Nicaragua);**

141.4 **Continue its efforts to build the necessary capacities for the incorporation of human rights in the democratic reform processes and the application of the Constitution (Honduras);**

141.5 **Ensure the independence of the Human Rights Commission, the Election Commission and the Office of the Auditor General (Norway);**

141.6 **Continue strengthening national human rights institutions and mechanisms (Nepal);**

141.7 **Continue measures aimed at strengthening the capacity of national human rights protection mechanisms (Uzbekistan);**

141.8 **Work towards disseminating a culture of human rights and national capacity-building through the development of strategies and plans and seek to implement them in cooperation with the relevant United Nations mechanisms (Qatar);**

** Conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

141.9 Continue efforts in the field of human rights education and training (Morocco);

141.10 Increase efforts to develop the education system in the field of human rights and further promote a human rights culture in society (Uzbekistan);

141.11 Continue its efforts to enhance capacity-building for law enforcement officials in the area of human rights (United Arab Emirates);

141.12 Strengthen its training and capacity-building programme in the area of human rights for law enforcement officials (Malaysia);

141.13 Promote a culture of respect for human rights at all levels of society (Sudan);

141.14 Consider identifying priority sectors where Maldives faces a lack of trained and qualified professionals and seek technical and capacity-building assistance from the international community (Seychelles);

141.15 Seek all forms of technical and logistical assistance in order to strengthen the situation of human rights in the country (Iraq);[1]

141.16 Consider developing a system to follow up on international recommendations, including universal periodic review recommendations (Paraguay);

141.17 Pursue cooperation with human rights mechanisms (Equatorial Guinea);

141.18 Continue cooperation with international human rights mechanisms (Côte d'Ivoire);

141.19 Continue active cooperation with human rights mechanisms (Azerbaijan);

141.20 Ensure that all civil society actors, as well as the Human Rights Commission, can carry out their activities, including participating in international mechanisms, without being subjected to reprisal (Switzerland);

141.21 Further promote and protect the rights of vulnerable groups of the population, including children, persons with disabilities, women and older persons (Russian Federation);

141.22 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Madagascar);

141.23 Continue promoting and protecting the rights of children (Oman);

141.24 Consolidate measures taken to protect and promote the rights of children (Equatorial Guinea);

141.25 Further strengthen the child rights protection system by bringing the national legislation in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Kazakhstan);

141.26 Complete the adoption of the new children's act in line with the obligations of Maldives under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Qatar);

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[1] The recommendation as read out during the interactive dialogue: "Provide all forms of technical and logistic assistance to the Maldives in order to strengthen the situation of human rights in the country".

141.27 **Complete the enactment of the draft child protection act and incorporate in the act provisions to counter child, early and forced marriage (Republic of Moldova);**

141.28 **Enact the draft child protection act and ensure its compatibility with the respective obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and strengthen cooperation with relevant national stakeholders in the area of eliminating child abuse and victims' rehabilitation (Egypt);**

141.29 **Complete the enactment of the draft child protection act (Jordan);**

141.30 **Complete the process of adoption of the child protection act (Lebanon);**

141.31 **Complete the enactment of the draft child protection act in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child by including provisions to counter child, early and forced marriage (Latvia);**

141.32 **Strengthen efforts to eliminate out-of-court as well as child marriages (Turkey);**

141.33 **Allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of the national action plan towards the well-being of the Maldivian child 2001–2010 (Timor-Leste);**

141.34 **Establish gender equality legislation to better protect the rights of women and girls (Sierra Leone);**

141.35 **Continue working for the enactment into law of the gender equality bill (Philippines);**

141.36 **Continue to prioritize the enactment of a gender equality bill with a view to combating comprehensively all forms of discrimination against women (Singapore);**

141.37 **Expedite the process to pass the draft gender equality law and to establish clear policies on gender equality and the implementation framework (Namibia);**

141.38 **Adopt the gender equality bill within the time frame (Turkey);**

141.39 **Accelerate the passage of the gender equality bill (Nigeria);**

141.40 **Continue work on enacting a gender equality bill, as an important step to improve the country's legislation on non-discrimination and gender equality (Albania);**

141.41 **Expedite its efforts towards the enactment of the gender equality legislation and set up appropriate mechanisms for its implementation (Mauritius);**

141.42 **Ensure the application of existing laws, in particular those on the protection of the rights of women (France);**

141.43 **Enhance awareness of women's rights and disseminate information on the remedies available to those who claim violations of their rights (Liechtenstein);**

141.44 **Continue implementing the priorities set for the promotion and protection of women's rights in the country (Brunei Darussalam);**

141.45 **Continue its efforts in the field of women's rights protection (Kazakhstan);**

141.46 **Take measures to foster the participation of women in all sectors of the society on the basis of a gender equality policy, including through the application of affirmative actions and quotas (Costa Rica);**

141.47 **Continue improving national legislation in order to ensure equality between women and men on the basis of the principle of non-discrimination (Russian Federation);**

141.48 **Take further measures for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights, ensuring women's participation and gender responsiveness within the policies of the Government and other agencies (Sri Lanka);**

141.49 **Continue to further promote gender equality in the country, in particular through education and capacity-building activities (Viet Nam);**

141.50 **Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, in particular discrimination against divorced women and widows, so that they can participate in the economic and political life of their country (Angola);**

141.51 **Improve the family law in order to develop the rights of women (Lebanon);**

141.52 **Give stronger support to government measures for the empowerment of women (Cuba);**

141.53 **Continue to take steps for economic and political empowerment of women (Pakistan);**

141.54 **Promote leadership of women by enacting the pending gender equality bill and ensuring its early implementation (Fiji);**

141.55 **Take measures to eradicate traditional stereotypes of women, especially through educational programmes and the enactment of legislation on domestic violence and all forms of sexual violence (Bhutan);**

141.56 **Establish and enforce explicit legal protection against female genital mutilation (Slovenia);**

141.57 **Take measures to eradicate traditional stereotypes of women, especially through educational programmes, and enact legislation on domestic violence (Portugal);**

141.58 **Take concrete measures to implement the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (Jordan);**

141.59 **Develop statistics on cases of gender-based violence and analyse why many women do not to denounce abuses (Spain);**

141.60 **Implement stronger complaints and prosecution mechanisms for survivors of domestic violence, and improved services, including the provision of more shelters (Australia);**

141.61 **Continue deploying efforts aimed at preventing and punishing all forms of violence against women and girls and further consolidate female representation in executive and decision-making positions (Peru);**

141.62 **Institutionalize systematic training and capacity-building to prevent, respond and monitor gender-based violence (Portugal);**

141.63 **Continue strengthening plans and programmes with a view to eradicating domestic violence, especially against women, girls and boys (Chile);**

141.64 **Strengthen its Domestic Violence Prevention Act with a view to ending domestic and sexual violence against women and children (Nigeria);**

141.65 **Train police and medical staff to identify and classify violence within the family avoiding victims stigmatization (Mexico);**

141.66 **Expeditiously implement the Anti-Human Trafficking Act and provide facilities and necessary assistance to the victims, in particular women and children (Sri Lanka);**

141.67 **Continue to implement the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons 2015–2019 (Pakistan);**

141.68 **Continue combating trafficking in persons (Senegal);**

141.69 **Continue efforts for the full implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act, in order to identify child victims of trafficking and provide legal assistance to them (Albania);**

141.70 **Implement the anti-trafficking law by investigating all cases of human trafficking (Botswana);**

141.71 **Take concrete steps to reduce violence targeting foreigners and investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of violent attacks (Canada);**

141.72 **Put in place measures for the safety and security of foreign workers and effectively implement the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (India);**

141.73 **Proceed in providing effective protection for the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society (Egypt);**

141.74 **Continue the work undertaken for the adoption of a new criminal code which guarantees the independence of the judicial system and the holding of fair and just trials (France);**

141.75 **Take the necessary steps to strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Ghana);**

141.76 **Continue the process of reforms in the area of criminal justice in line with the international obligations of Maldives (Russian Federation);**

141.77 **Promote efforts to consolidate the rule of law (Côte d'Ivoire);**

141.78 **Improve access to criminal justice services and legal assistance (Angola);**

141.79 **Hasten the submission of the juvenile justice bill, aimed at establishing a juvenile justice and welfare system in the country (Nigeria);**

141.80 **Guarantee education for children in conflict with the law (Bahrain);**

141.81 **Provide meaningful access to specialized training on international human rights law and mechanisms to its judges, magistrates, prosecutors and lawyers (New Zealand);**

141.82 **Ensure respect for freedom of opinion and expression (France);**

141.83 **Uphold freedoms essential for a stable democracy, including freedoms of speech and assembly (Australia);**

141.84 **Take concrete measures to guarantee freedom of expression and the media and to address limitations in the existing law governing the operation of civil society organizations (Netherlands);**

141.85 **Increase measures to promote and protect freedom of expression in the country (Spain);**

141.86 **Create an environment of freedom of the media and encourage media outlets to project positive images of women and of the equal status and responsibilities of women and men in the private and public spheres (Slovenia);**[2]

141.87 **Strengthen efforts to protect freedom of expression, including the safety of journalists (Greece);**

141.88 **Guarantee freedom of expression in all its forms and ensure investigations into attacks against journalists and the media and bring those responsible to justice (Switzerland);**

141.89 **Develop and implement specific laws, policies and mechanisms that recognize and protect the work of civil society, human rights defenders and journalists (Norway);**

141.90 **Ensure a safe environment for civil society participation, particularly the protection of persons contributing to the work of the Human Rights Council (Paraguay);**

141.91 **Redouble its efforts in combating stereotypes on the role of women through facilitating the participation of women in political and public affairs and sensitizing its population on women's rights (Malaysia);**

141.92 **Intensify its efforts to facilitate the participation of women in political and public affairs and fight stereotypes in relation to the role of women, particularly by raising the awareness of the population about the necessity of ensuring that women enjoy their rights (Argentina);**

141.93 **Continue to promote women and make sure they are effectively present at the level of decision-making (Senegal);**

141.94 **Increase women's participation in decision-making positions (Rwanda);**

141.95 **Continue strengthening its efforts to facilitate the participation of women in political and public affairs (Bangladesh);**

141.96 **Redouble its efforts to facilitate the participation of women in political and public affairs and combat stereotypes on the role of women (Republic of Korea);**

141.97 **Enhance the role of youth and empower them in nation-building (Sudan);**

141.98 **Continue to realize the right to work for its citizens, including through providing opportunities for vocational training and technical education for young people (Egypt);**

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[2] The recommendation as read out during the interactive dialogue: "We also reiterate our previous recommendations No. 56 and 103."

141.99 **Try to minimize the negative consequences of drug-related crimes on human rights (China);**

141.100 **Continue the practice of implementing programmes aimed at further improving the welfare of the population (Turkmenistan);**

141.101 **Continue strengthening its social policies with a view to increasing the quality of life of its people, in particular of the most needy sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

141.102 **Enhance efforts in the provision of adequate housing for its people (Brunei Darussalam);**

141.103 **Continue with its plans to provide health care, especially for the elimination of polio, and reduce the death rate (Saudi Arabia);**

141.104 **Strengthen the existing health-care system to enhance access to health services by all with special emphasis on preventing life-threatening illnesses and incidents (Sri Lanka);**

141.105 **Take further measures to protect human health in the context of ensuring effective ways of sustainable development (Turkmenistan);**

141.106 **Follow up so as to complete its Health Master Plan 2012–2016 (Equatorial Guinea);**

141.107 **Strengthen the comprehensive health-care system to elevate the level of health services (Kuwait);**

141.108 **Continue to implement effective policies to ensure full access to health services for its people (Singapore);**

141.109 **Enact the education bill as soon as possible (Seychelles);**

141.110 **Enact the education bill, further enhance and develop the education system and intensify efforts to improve access to education for students from low-income families (State of Palestine);**

141.111 **Continue its efforts to provide free education for all (Saudi Arabia);**

141.112 **Take additional steps to improve the quality of local education, including through improving teachers' performance and providing additional support for academically challenged students (Thailand);**

141.113 **Continue its efforts to raise the quality of education for all in order to protect the promotion of human rights (Yemen);**

141.114 **Continue to improve the education system in the country in cooperation and partnership with relevant international organizations (United Arab Emirates);**

141.115 **Take further steps to progressively improve the quality of education (Kazakhstan);**

141.116 **Strengthen the Government's efforts to improve the quality of education (Kuwait);**

141.117 **Enhance measures to address stereotyping against and lack of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (Malaysia);**

141.118 **Mainstream disabilities rights into government policies and action plans (State of Palestine);**

141.119 **Guarantee access for persons with disabilities to education, health care and employment on an equal footing and without discrimination (Bahrain);**

141.120 **Continue advancing the rights of persons with disabilities by increasing its financial assistance and developing regulation on minimum standards for the enjoyment of their human rights (Cuba);**

141.121 **Improve access to education for persons with disabilities (Jordan);**

141.122 **Identify the challenges in implementing its national migration management policy (Sri Lanka);**

141.123 **Prevent discrimination or trafficking of migrant workers, establish warning mechanism and complaints mechanisms in case of violations and carry out awareness campaigns on their rights (Mexico);**

141.124 **Take further measures for ensuring proper protection of rights of migrants, including migrant workers (Ukraine);**

141.125 **Take all necessary steps in the areas of legislation and political measures to protect migrant workers from abusers, traffickers and unscrupulous employers and to guarantee the non-discrimination of non-citizens with regard to conditions and requirements to access the labour market (Honduras);**

141.126 **Update and enact the pending disaster management bill with a view to realizing these basic rights to clean and safe drinking water and the right to a clean environment (Fiji);**

141.127 **Strengthen and implement comprehensive climate change adaptation measures (Sierra Leone);**

141.128 **Take further steps to protect and promote economic, social and cultural rights, in the context of climate change (Viet Nam);**

141.129 **Actively address the negative impact of climate change on human rights (China);**

141.130 **Strengthen efforts to ensure the security and safety of family and the protection of family from experiencing negative consequences (Bangladesh);**

141.131 **Adopt additional measures to completely implement the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, with reference to the expired 12-month term following its adoption in 2012 (Germany).**

142. **Maldives considers that recommendation 141.22 above is already implemented.**

143. **The following recommendations will be examined by Maldives, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than at the thirtieth session of the Human Rights Council, to be held from 14 September to 2 October 2015:**

143.1 **Finalize the commitment to accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

143.2 **Consider ratifying those international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, among them the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Nicaragua);**

143.3 **Consider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);**

143.4 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ecuador);**

143.5 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Rwanda);**

143.6 **Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

143.7 **Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay);**

143.8 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal);**

143.9 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);**

143.10 **Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);**

143.11 **Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Madagascar);**

143.12 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain);**

143.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Algeria);**

143.14 **Ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute, if possible with a view to contributing to the activation of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over the crime of aggression at the beginning of 2017 (Liechtenstein);**

143.15 **Consider ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);**

143.16 **Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as previously recommended (Germany);**

143.17 **Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Portugal);**

143.18 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Algeria);**

143.19 **Promptly accede to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New Zealand);**

143.20 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and take the necessary measures to give full effect to the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the domestic legal order (Tunisia);**

143.21 **Consider ratification of or accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their**

Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Peru);

143.22 **Step up its efforts to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (Philippines);**

143.23 **Finalize the process for the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as it committed to do, and create the necessary conditions to ensure the correct functioning and independence of the national Human Rights Commission (Niger);**

143.24 **Consider withdrawing the reservation made on article 16 to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Timor-Leste);**

143.25 **Withdraw reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Slovenia);**

143.26 **Bring domestic legislation into conformity with its international obligations in the human rights sphere (Madagascar);**

143.27 **Undertake necessary measures to strengthen the independence of the Human Rights Commission, including by amending the 2005 Human Rights Commission Act with a view to aligning it with the Paris Principles (Mauritius);**

143.28 **Guarantee the conformity of the national Human Rights Commission with the Paris Principles, strengthen its independence and protect its members against reprisals and intimidation (Tunisia);**

143.29 **Fulfil its first cycle commitment to strengthen the independence and impartiality of its national Human Rights Commission (Canada);**

143.30 **Present its initial report, which is overdue since 2005, to the Committee against Torture (Denmark);**

143.31 **Accept a follow-up visit by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and accept the outstanding request of a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (New Zealand);**

143.32 **Fully implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and ensure that the concept of separation of powers is fully respected (Netherlands);**

143.33 **Take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against children born outside of wedlock with regards to entitlement to maintenance and inheritance (Namibia);**

143.34 **Ensure equality of the rights of children born out of wedlock in unions which have not been sanctioned by courts (Paraguay);**

143.35 **Include specific provisions for the protection of girls in the draft law on the protection of children with a view to preventing child, early and forced marriages and criminalize attempts to marry persons below the age of 18 years, as well as sexual offences against children (Belgium);**

143.36 **Repeal all legal provisions that discriminate against women (Slovenia);**

143.37 **Take all necessary measures to ensure the elimination of violence and discrimination against women and take steps to ensure the full incorporation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into its legal system (Sweden);**

143.38 **Make additional efforts to ensure that domestic law is in compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, particularly with regard to equality in marriage and divorce (Spain);**

143.39 **Strengthen efforts in implementing the rights and obligations towards the empowerment of women found in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Greece);**

143.40 **Accelerate the process to adopt a law on gender equality and carry out awareness-raising activities on the issues of gender and domestic violence in the judicial sector, in the security forces as well as in schools (Belgium);**

143.41 **Take steps to promote religious dialogue on issues that affect women's human rights and the implementation of laws tackling violence against women (Ghana);**

143.42 **Increase resource allocations to government agencies mandated to implement laws tackling violence against women (Malaysia);**

143.43 **Bring an end to arbitrary detentions, particularly on the grounds of political opinion; investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment in prisons and bring those responsible to justice (France);**

143.44 **Review the treatment of all detainees ensuring that the human rights, safety and security of individuals in government custody are fully respected (Canada);**

143.45 **Ensure the administration of justice is fully consistent with international human rights standards and seek international technical assistance (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

143.46 **Take measures to ensure the independence and impartiality of the role of the judiciary (Trinidad and Tobago);**

143.47 **Take further steps to ensure the impartiality and independence of the judiciary in accordance with international standards (Italy);**

143.48 **Take measures to reform the Judicial Service Commission, so as to ensure an independent and impartial judiciary which respects fundamental rights (Switzerland);**

143.49 **Strengthen the impartiality of the Judicial Service Commission and ensure the independence of the judiciary (Botswana);**

143.50 **Strengthen the independence of the judiciary by reforming the Judicial Services Commission's process for selecting and appointing judges (United States of America);**

143.51 **Restore confidence in its legal system by ensuring the clear and unambiguous division of powers, including the indisputable independence of its judicial processes and judges (Denmark);**

143.52 **Meet relevant obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and fulfil its universal periodic review first cycle**

commitments to ensure the legitimacy and independence of the judiciary and establish an independent bar association (Canada);

143.53 Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, ensuring to all persons the respect of due process guarantees, in accordance with article 14 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Argentina);

143.54 Provide adequate training for judges, including human rights training, to ensure all judicial proceedings conform to international fair trial standards, and take concrete measures to strengthen the impartiality and independence of the Judicial Services Commission, including through ensuring that the composition and functioning of the Commission is in line with international principles of independence and accountability of the judiciary (Ireland);

143.55 Favourably consider embarking on fundamental reforms to the judiciary to ensure its independence, impartiality and transparency with a view to strengthening democracy and the rule of law in the country (Republic of Korea);

143.56 Improve the system of the separation of constitutional powers and make sure that each power respects the mandate of the others (Cabo Verde);

143.57 Take concrete measures to reinforce domestic democratic institutions through the strengthening of judicial independence and of the freedom of opinion and expression, the investigation of recent detentions with alleged political motivation, as well as through the guarantee to opposition parties of the right to peaceful protest (Brazil);

143.58 Reaffirm its commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law immediately and ensure that security forces exercise restraint in the face of peaceful and democratic protests and cease intimidation of the media (Canada);

143.59 Develop necessary institutional infrastructure to promote mutual understanding, tolerance and interreligious dialogue in Maldivian society to contribute to addressing religious extremism and strengthening cultural diversity (Honduras);

143.60 Develop and implement laws, policies and mechanisms that ensure full protection of all journalists and human rights defenders against attacks and reprisals (Latvia);

143.61 Take appropriate measures to fully guarantee the safety of journalists and human rights defenders so that they can carry out their activities without fear of persecution or restriction (Republic of Korea);

143.62 Ensure an enabling environment for the activities of journalists, human rights defenders and the other civil society actors (Tunisia);

143.63 Create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment, in which human rights defenders and civil society can operate free from hindrance and insecurity, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolutions 22/6 and 27/31 (Ireland);

143.64 Protect human rights defenders and ensure their right to exercise their work without restrictions (Timor-Leste);

143.65 **Take measures aimed at diminishing threats and intimidation against journalists and civil society, as well as opponents against the Government (Trinidad and Tobago);**

143.66 **Take urgent action to protect human rights defenders, non-governmental organizations and journalists, and to investigate and prosecute all who threaten them (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

143.67 **Improve resource allocations for the implementation of laws tackling participation of women in public office (Montenegro);**

143.68 **Strengthen health-care facilities and enhance access to reproductive health services, especially for adolescents and youth, unmarried women and marginalized and excluded populations such as persons with disabilities (Thailand);**

143.69 **Develop legislation guaranteeing workers' rights, including for migrant workers, and enhance efforts to combat fraudulent recruitment (United States of America);**

143.70 **Improve rights and conditions of migrant workers and consider signing the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Turkey);**

143.71 **Adopt legislation for the protection of the environment and establish a joint private-public partnership to reduce the environmental impact of tourism on livelihoods and the rights to housing, safe drinking water, health and an adequate standard of life for its inhabitants (Mexico);**

143.72 **Promote the empowerment of women and girls and prevent the promotion of discrimination against women including through speech and sermons (Croatia);**

143.73 **Take effective steps to fully strengthen the rule of law; effectively ensure the impartiality and independence of the judiciary (Kenya);**

143.74 **Strengthen the independence of its judiciary (Liechtenstein);**

143.75 **Establish legal remedies that are accessible to women and ensure that women who report violations are treated in a gender-sensitive manner at all stages of judicial proceedings (Liechtenstein);**

143.76 **Continue its efforts to combat discrimination in all its forms (Libya);**

143.77 **Ensure the right of anyone convicted of a crime to have his or her conviction and sentence reviewed by a higher tribunal, as prescribed by article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Denmark);**

143.78 **Take all necessary measures to ensure the rule of law and the right to due process as enshrined in article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Sweden).**

144. **Maldives considers that the recommendations below cannot be accepted and would thus be noted:**

144.1 **Consider withdrawing reservations to article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Kenya);**

144.2 **Take measures to withdraw the reservation to article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Costa Rica);**

144.3 **Withdraw the reservation to article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Greece);**

144.4 **Remove the legal requirement which prevents non-Muslims from being appointed as members of the Human Rights Commission (Ghana);**

144.5 **Continue efforts to amend the Human Rights Commission Act to be fully in line with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**

144.6 **Speed up the adoption of the law against discrimination ensuring the incorporation of a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);**

144.7 **Guarantee that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons have full and equal enjoyment of their human rights by repealing the norms that criminalize and stigmatize them (Argentina);**

144.8 **Decriminalize consensual extramarital sexual relations (Slovenia);**

144.9 **Banish from its Penal Code the provisions related to corporal punishment, including flogging for sexual intercourse outside of marriage, and death penalty (Albania);**

144.10 **Place an absolute ban on death sentences against persons below the age of 18 at the time when the offence was committed (New Zealand);**

144.11 **Do not sentence minors to capital punishment (Spain);**

144.12 **Extend the moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition and take immediate measures to prohibit absolutely the application of the death penalty to persons under the age of 18 years at the time of the offence, in compliance with the international legal obligations of Maldives, in conformity with the commitments made during the first universal periodic review (Belgium);**

144.13 **Review and reform its legislation in order to abolish the death penalty and, in the meantime, maintain the de facto moratorium, with a view to abolishing the practice in the future, avoiding, in particular, the possibility of children being sentenced to death (Brazil);**

144.14 **Ensure that the death penalty is not applied to persons below the age of 18 years, in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Maldives (France);**

144.15 **Retain the moratorium on the death penalty in all circumstances, in particular for juvenile offenders, and work towards the de jure abolition of capital punishment (Latvia);**

144.16 **Study the possibility of ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ecuador);**

144.17 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Rwanda);**

144.18 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with a view to total abolishment of the death penalty (Namibia);**

144.19 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Norway);**

144.20 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, relating to the abolition of death penalty (Paraguay);**

144.21 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with a view to the abolition of death penalty (Madagascar);**

144.22 **Take all necessary steps to introduce a de jure moratorium on capital executions with a view to fully abolish the death penalty, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Italy);**

144.23 **Revive the former six decade-old moratorium on the death penalty with the clear objective of complete abolition (Germany);**

144.24 **Maintain the moratorium in the application of the death penalty (Spain);**

144.25 **Maintain the moratorium aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Argentina);**

144.26 **Maintain a long-standing de facto moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition (Montenegro);**

144.27 **Maintain the moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to its definitive abolition (France);**

144.28 **Continue the longstanding de facto moratorium on death penalty and further consider its legal abolition (Nepal);**

144.29 **Continue retaining the moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Ukraine);**

144.30 **Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Slovenia);**[3]

144.31 **Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to its definitive and permanent abolition and commute existing sentences (Uruguay);**

144.32 **Consider abolishing the death penalty and eliminate mandatory death penalty sentences (Sierra Leone);**

144.33 **Remove the regulations which enable the implementation of the death penalty for intentional murder and remove the power of the President to commute death sentences, and renew its commitment to a moratorium on the death penalty (Australia);**

144.34 **Amend the Penal Code to prohibit corporal punishment (Chile);**

144.35 **Abolish flogging and other forms of corporal punishment, and ensure that survivors of sexual violence are not prosecuted for fornication (Slovenia);**

[3] The recommendation as read out during the interactive dialogue: "We also reiterate our previous recommendations No. 56 and 103."

144.36 **Institute an immediate moratorium on the punishment by flogging, with a view to abolishing this practice at the legislative level (Uruguay);**

144.37 **Impose an immediate moratorium on flogging, with a view of abolishing it in law, and prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings (Latvia);**

144.38 **Bring an end to the application of cruel, inhuman or degrading punishments, in particular corporal punishment (France);**

144.39 **Introduce the necessary legal and policy measures to abolish all forms of corporal punishment (Italy);**

144.40 **End politically motivated prosecutions and court proceedings, including those against members of the Human Rights Commission, and address the cases of individuals who have been convicted and imprisoned without minimum fair trial guarantees, such as former President Nasheed (United States of America);**

144.41 **Release immediately former President Nasheed, in light of the lack of a fair trial (Norway);**

144.42 **Immediately release political prisoners, including former President Nasheed, and conduct an effective and thorough review of the investigation and legal proceedings to ensure that international obligations related to fair trials and the rule of law have been fully respected (Canada);**

144.43 **Consider eliminating from the national legislation all provisions restricting freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Peru);**

144.44 **Ensure religious freedom, freedom of worship and non-discrimination against persons of different religions (Cabo Verde);**

144.45 **Further facilitate favourable grounds for minority religious groups to choose, change and follow their own religion or belief without any form of restriction (Ethiopia);**

144.46 **Remove legal provisions that restrict the right to freedom of religion or belief, including article 9 (d) of the Constitution, which bars non-Muslims from being Maldivian citizens (Italy);**

144.47 **Guarantee the right to manifest one's religion or belief (Italy);**

144.48 **Develop laws that protect freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression (Lebanon);**

144.49 **Fully align the institutional and operational framework of the national Human Rights Commission to be in line with the Paris Principles (Kenya).**

145. **All conclusions and recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting States and the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Maldives was headed by H.E. Ms. Dunya MAUMOON, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- H. E. Ms. Aishath Bisham, Legal Affairs Secretary, The President's Office
- H. E. Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Foreign Secretary
- Mr. Ismail Wisham, Assistant Attorney General
- Ms. Geela Ali, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Maldives, Geneva
- Ms. Rishfa Rasheed, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Maldives, Geneva
- Ms. Mariyam Midhfa Naeem, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Maldives, New York
- Ms. Shiuneen Rasheed, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Maldives, Geneva